

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 SCCT-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 DRC-01 IO-14 /121 W

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R 121215Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1288

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 1940

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, CE

SUBJ: TRAVELS ABROAD OF PRIME MINISTERS CHILDREN

1. SUMMARY: CURRENT TRAVEL TO PRC AND PAKISTAN BY PRIME MINISTERS SON ANURA AND TO INDIA AND MIDDLE EAST BY DAUGHTER SUNETHRA AND SON-IN-LAW KUMAR RUPASINGHE APPEARS TO BE PART OF BALANCING ACT LINKED TO DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS. ANURA MAY VIEW PEKING TRIP AS MEANS OF UNDERCUTTING ALLEGED CHINESE SYMPATHY FOR RUPASINGHE. KUMAR, UNDER GROWING PRESSURE FROM MODERATES AT HOME, HAS WON BRIEF RESPITE BY HIS ABSENCE AND CHANCE TO DEEPEN HIS EXISTING INTEREST IN ARAB POLITICS. HE IS EXPECTED TO SEEK CONTACT WITH PALESTINIAN GROUPS. END SUMMARY.

2. CONSIDERABLE LOCAL SPECULATION SURROUNDS CONCURRENT BUT SEPARATE TRAVEL ABROAD OF TWO OF PRIME MINISTERS THREE OFFSPRING: SON ANURA AND DAUGHTER SUNETHRA ACCOMPANIED BY HUSBAND KUMAR RUPASINGHE. ANURA DEPARTED JUNE 25 ON TRIP TO PRC ONLY A FEW WEEKS FOLLOWING HIS  
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RETURN FROM USSR. IN BOTH CASES HE WAS INVITED IN HIS

CAPACITY OF PRESIDENT OF SRI LANKA FREEDOM PARTY (SLFP) YOUTH LEAGUE AND WAS ACCOMPANIED BY OTHER YOUTH LEAGUE MEMBERS. PRESS REPORTS FROM PEKING DESCRIBE ANURA'S MEETINGS WITH PRINCE SIHANOUK JUNE 29 AND PRC VICE-FOREIGN MINISTER HAN NIEN-LUNG JULY 1.

3. ACCORDING TO PRESS RELEASE FROM MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MDFA), RUPASINGHES LEFT COLOMBO JUNE 29 FOR TWO TO THREE WEEK TOUR OF MIDDLE EAST, INCLUDING THREE DAY STOP-OVER IN BOMBAY AND NEW DELHI AS GUESTS OF INDIAN GOVT. JULY 4 MDFA RELEASE UNDERSCORED RED-CARPET COURTESIES FROM GOI, INCLUDING LUNCHEON GIVEN BY PRIME MINISTER GANDHI, DISCUSSIONS WITH SEVERAL CABINET MINISTERS (D.P. DHAR, C. SUBRAMANIAM, S.P. SINGH), AND MEETINGS WITH INDIAN INTELLECTUALS. RUPASINGHES ARE CURRENTLY IN EGYPT UNDER AUSPICES OF ARAB SOCIALIST UNION AND ARE LATER SCHEDULED TO TRAVEL TO IRAQ, LEBANON, AND ALGERIA AT INVITATION OF ARAB LEAGUE. RUPASINGHE IS DEEPLY INTERESTED IN REVOLUTIONARY ARAB POLITICS AND REPORTEDLY IS ANXIOUS TO RE-ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH PALESTINIAN GROUPS WHOSE REPRESENTATIVES HE MET IN MOSCOW LAST OCT.

4. ALTHOUGH APPARENTLY IGNORED BY PAKISTANI GOVT WHEN TRANSITING THROUGH ISLAMABAD ON HIS WAY TO PEKING, PRESS REPORTS INDICATE GOP IS NOW ACCORDING RED CARPET TREATMENT TO ANURA ON HIS WAY BACK FROM CHINA. FOLLOWING WHAT STORIES DESCRIBE AS "CORDIAL DISCUSSIONS" WITH PRESIDENT BHUTTO JULY 9 AND TALKS WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY, ANURA IS CURRENTLY TOURING PAKISTAN AS GUEST OF PEOPLES PROGRESSIVE PARTY.

5. COMMENT: THERE IS EVIDENT FOREIGN INTEREST IN CULTIVATING BOTH ANURA AND KUMAR AND SUNETHRA AND NOT WISHING TO LOSE A TRICK TO RIVALS. SRI LANKA'S RITUAL ADHERENCE TO NON-ALIGNMENT DICTATES BALANCED RESPONSE TO INVITATIONS FROM FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS. ANURA TROOPS OFF TO PEKING, WITHIN WEEKS OF HIS RETURN

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FROM USSR, THEREBY COUNTERING THOUGHTS THAT HE MAY BE IN RUSSIANS POCKET. ANURA ACCOMPANIED HIS MOTHER TO INDIA IN JANUARY 1974 -- HE DULY STOPS IN PAKISTAN IN JULY. ANURA'S TRAVEL TO CHINA MAY HAVE ALSO BEEN AIMED AT UNDERCUTTING ALLEGED CHINESE SYMPATHY FOR RUPASINGHES. KUMAR, BURDENED BY ALLEGATIONS OF PRO-CHINESE SYMPATHIES, MADE HIS FIRST TRIP ABROAD AS PUBLIC FIGURE TO USSR IN OCT 1973 TO ATTEND

WORLD PEACE CONGRESS WHERE HE PRAISED BREZHNEV AND SOVIET POLICY, AND NOW HIS SECOND, TO INDIA. INDIAN LEG OF HIS PRESENT TRAVEL MAY BE INTENDED TO REASSURE GOI THAT HIS JANAVEGAYA GROUP IS NOT HOSTILE TO INDIA IN SPITE OF ITS ADMIRATION FOR PRC AND ITS CONDEMNATION OF INDIAN NUCLEAR TEST IN "JANAVEGAYA" NEWSPAPER. LEST ANY NEGATIVE CONCLUSIONS BE DRAWN BY WESTERN ON-LOOKERS, GSL-CONTROLLED PRESS HAS BALANCED CAREFULLY EQUATED WRITE-UPS OF ANURA'S AND RUPASINGHES PEREGRINATIONS WITH FRONT-PAGE COVERAGE OF MEETING IN WASHINGTON BETWEEN GSL DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER LAKSHMAN JAYAKODY AND THEN ACTING SECTY SISCO.

6. BEHIND ALL THIS TRAVEL SEEMS TO LIE CONVICTION THAT ROAD TO MRS BANDARANAIKE'S EAR LEADS THROUGH ANURA AND RUPASINGHES, AND THAT BETWEEN THEM THEY WILL PLAY DECISIVE ROLES IN FUTURE. BUT NOT TOGETHER. LATENT RIVALRY BETWEEN TWOMEN HAS FLARED INTO BARELY CONCEALED HOSTILITY, MAINLY ON PART OF ANURA, WHO REPORTEDLY SEES KUMAR AS MAIN RIVAL AND HIS INTERNATIONALIST VIEWS AS ALIEN TO SLFP'S INDIGENOUS BRANCH OF SOCIALIS. RUPASINGHE, IN FACT, FACES MOUNTING RESENTMENT FROM SLFP AND UNITED FRONT'S MODERATE ELEMENTS WHICH ARE EMBITTERED BY HIS METEORIC RISE AND NOW FEEL THREATENED BY SUCCESS OF RUPASINGHE IN EXTENDING INFLUENCE TO OFFICIAL MEDIA AND KEY GSL AGENCIES. MIDDLE EAST TRAVEL, HOWEVER BRIEF, PROVIDES RESPITE BY REMOVING BOTH RUPASINGHES FROM LOCAL SCENE.  
VAN HOLLEN

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